THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDI): (a) and (b) Data on import of second hand machines is not maintained. However, as informed by the custom authority one second hand jute mill machinery worth US $ 74420 was imported from China in the year 2001-2002.

(c) Import of more than 10 years old machineries is restricted w.e.f. 1.4.2000.

(d) Age of machines is determined from the date of manufacture, which should be available on the machine itself as imprinted by machine manufacturers. In case of non-availability of year of manufacture on the machines, concerned Chartered Engineers evaluation regarding age of machines is considered by the importing country.

(e) As per available information, 12 jute mill machinery manufacturers are engaged in manufacture of jute mill machinery. However, since July, 1991 such machinery manufacturers are not required to be registered in the office of the Jute Commissioner.

Removal of Sectoral Caps

3667. SHRI RUMANDLA RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to make a greater dent on attracting foreign investments;

(b) if so, whether Government are toying with the idea of removing sectoral caps in all areas except the one in place on security or environment consideration;

(c) whether the high powered Steering Committee on foreign investments chaired by Planning Commission Member has made strong recommendation to this effect;

(d) if so, whether Government have considered the issue; and

(e) if so, by when the final decision in this regard is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN SINGH): (a) and (b) FDI policy liberalisation is an ongoing process, which is based on national priorities, including sectoral considerations. With a view to attracting more FDI, the Government have already put in place a liberal, transparent and investor friendly FDI policy where most activities all under the automatic route for FDI up to 100% except a small list. Further Government has constituted a Group of Ministers on FDI to review the existing FDI Policy on an ongoing basis and suggest changes in the sectoral guidelines, including sectoral caps wherever considered necessary or desirable;

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

New Board for chillies

3668. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up a separate Board for chillies;

(b) if so, by when it is likely to be set up; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The development, research and marketing/export promotion of spices including chillies is adequately taken care of by the existing institutions of the Government of India such as Spices Board and the Indian Council of Agricultural Research.